

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-18, 22, and 23 are pending.

Claims 2 and 4 are canceled herein.

Claims 5, 7, and 19-21 were previously canceled.

Claims 1, 22, and 23 are currently amended.

1. (**Currently Amended**) A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, comprising:

 a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, and having a breast portion on the front portion;

 a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric; and

 a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric; and

a pair of sleeves attached to the base fabric for receiving the person's arms, and a protective panel attached to an inner forearm portion of each sleeve,

 wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration,

 wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface,

 wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel, and

 wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion.

2. (Canceled).
3. (Original) The garment of claim 1, further comprising a collar portion.
- 4 & 5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 1, further comprising at least one of pockets and loops on the front portion of the base fabric.
7. (Canceled).
8. (Original) The garment of claim 1, further comprising attachable and detachable structural members adapted to secure the bottom of the garment to a safety belt.
9. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 8, wherein the attachable and detachable structural members are selected from the group consisting of loops, buttons, snaps, hooks, and loop fasteners.
10. (Original) The garment of claim 1, wherein the base fabric is formed into any one of a coat, jacket, shirt, and vest.
11. (Original) The garment of claim 1, wherein the protective panel comprises at least one ply of a fabric formed of aramid fibers.

12. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the aramid fibers are selected from the group consisting of Kevlar® fiber, Twaron® fiber, Spectra® fiber, and Zylon® fiber.
13. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber of 200 denier mesh.
14. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a weight of 3.9 oz/yd².
15. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a warp count of 70 yarns/inch.
16. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a fill count of 70 yarns/inch.
17. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a thickness from 6 to 8 mils.
18. **(Original)** The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a breaking strength of 385 lbf/inch.
- 19-21. **(Canceled).**

22. (Currently Amended) A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, comprising:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, and having a breast portion on the front portion;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric; and

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric;

a collar portion formed around the opening for the head;

a pair of sleeves attached to the base fabric for receiving the person's arms;

a protective panel attached to an inner [[a]] forearm portion of each sleeve;

at least one of pockets and loops attached to the front portion of the base fabric;

attachable and detachable structural members adapted to secure the bottom of the

garment to a safety belt;

wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel,

wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion,

wherein the protective panel comprises at least one ply of a fabric formed of aramid fiber,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration, and

wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface.

23. (Currently Amended) A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, comprising:

a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion, formed with openings for arms and head of the person, and having a breast portion on the front portion;

a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric; and

a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric,

wherein the first and second protective panels are positioned in a non-overlapping configuration,

wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface,

wherein each of the first and second protective panels comprises a substantially rectangular panel,

wherein the first protective panel is positioned on a right side of the breast portion and the second protective panel is positioned on a left side of the breast portion. The garment of claim 1, and wherein the protective panels comprise Zylon® fiber.